

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure as submitted herewith on a separate unnumbered page.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

~~The invention relates to~~ In a method for operating a compression-ignition internal combustion engine, ~~in which~~ a mean gas temperature in the cylinder is determined during a combustion ~~operation~~ in the combustion chamber, ~~so that~~ and a gradient of the mean gas temperature is calculated. ~~Then, the~~ The untreated nitrogen oxide emission level from the internal combustion engine is then determined either from a value for the gradient of the mean gas temperature and/or from a maximum value for the mean gas temperature in the cylinder. Accordingly, the engine parameters are set ~~in such a manner~~ so that a profile of the mean gas temperature is produced, at ~~[[with]]~~ which ~~[[fewer]]~~ NOx emissions are formed ~~is produced~~ during combustion are reduced.